the judicial officers and high and low officials in various departments in the country; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government have been providing help and assistance to the CVC in checking the corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION. (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) The Central Vigilance Commission has reported that it has not developed any such format which enables it to dispose of a complaint within four weeks. However, the commission has evolved a system by which it disposes the cases sent by the departments/PSUs for advice within a period of four weeks.

(c) and (d) The complaints are investigated by Chief Vigilance Officers of the concerned Ministries and Departments and not by the Commission. Further only CBI and not the CVC is involved in arrest of the corrupt officials etc. The Government monitors position related to the implementation of the advice of the CVC for imposition of major/ minor penalty and cases pending in various Ministries/Department for sanction for prosecution of erring officials. From time to time, the Government issues instructions to the Ministries and Departments for strict compliance of the directives of the CVC.

NTPC Power plant at Kayamkulam

365. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister had announced a Central investment in Kerala to enhance the capacity of NTPC power plant at Kayamkulam;

(b) whether the necessary sanction for the above project has been accorded; and

(c) if so, the present status of implemention of the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) NTPC proposes to expand its existing 350 MW naphtha-fired Combined Cycle Power Plant at Kayamkulam by adding 1950 MW Capacity (nominal) in State-ll based on LNG/natural gas as fuel.

The Detailed Feasibility Report for the project at an estimated cost of Rs. 7584.51 crore (3rd quarter 2002 price level) has been prepared. The NTPC has initiated the process of International Competitive Bidding for supply of Liquified Natural Gas/Gas for Kayamkulam.

Hike in power tariff

†366. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power tariff has been increased by the Electricity Boards in the various States of the country during the last one year;

(b) if so, the names of these State Electricity Boards or institutions; and

(c) the percentage of the increase in power tariff for the consumers in each of the State separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hike in domestic electricity rates

367. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to increase domestic electricity rates for various categories of consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that introduction of power reforms has made no impact on the distribution of power and if so, corrective steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Under the Electricity Act, 2003 the tariff of power for various categories of consumers is to be determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.